

# INTERIM GUIDELINES FOR CONTROL OF AIR, WATER & LAND EMISSIONS FROM ASBESTOS MINING AND MILLING OPERATIONS

December, 1974

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Ministry  
of the  
Environment

The Honourable  
William G. Newman,  
Minister

Everett Biggs,  
Deputy Minister

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MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

INTERIM ASBESTOS MINING AND

MILLING GUIDELINES

These guidelines are intended to apply to any new or existing mining and milling operation wherein the prime purpose of the operation is to recover asbestos fibres.

The purpose of these guidelines is to minimize emissions of asbestos to the environment.

General

1. These guidelines are supplementary to the "Effluent Guidelines and Receiving Water Quality Objectives for the Mining Industry in Ontario".
2. All emissions to the ambient air shall comply with the Environmental Protection Act and Regulation 15 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario - 1970.

Specific Guidelines

A. Water

1. Tailings should be stored on dry land. Disposal directly to any body of water should not be permitted.
2. All waters which have been in contact with asbestos bearing material which has undergone work should be impounded and settled prior to discharge to a water-course. This includes water in contact with rock storage, tailings or open pit water. Facilities should be provided for future additional ponding and

treatment if found necessary by current and future investigations.

3. It is recognized that in a dry process the recycling of waste water is limited, however, wherever possible this principle should be applied.

#### B. Air

1. Vents from all equipment processing asbestos containing material including ore crushers, dryers, fibre separating and packing devices should be equipped with fabric filters or other non-water contaminating collection device of similar collection efficiency.
2. Rock drills used in the ore body should be equipped with fabric filters or other non water contaminating collection device of similar collection efficiency.
3. Material handling equipment should be totally enclosed and where vented such vents should be equipped with fabric filters or other non water contaminating collection device of similar collection efficiency.
4. Wind blown dust emissions from tailings piles and dry tailings conveyor drop points should be controlled by the use of covered drop points and/or wetting.
5. Wind blown dust emissions from haulage roads and yards should be controlled by paving or wetting.

6. The dust catch from dry collection equipment should be wetted and consolidated before transfer to outdoor storage.
7. Dust collection systems should be designed so that upon collector failure, spare capacity is available in the event that the process controlled cannot be shut down immediately.

C. Land

1. Tailings areas should be revegetated and/or stabilized concurrently with their deposition.
2. Contours of tailings piles should follow the natural contours of the area in order to blend in with surroundings.

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